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The Director

GACarver, Jr.

Chicom Roadbuilding in Laos

As you know, there has recently been a flurry of reporting on alleged Chicom roadbuilding activity in northern Laos. In an effort to get a better personal grasp of the problem and a better focus on precisely what was involved, I asked my associates in VAS/RAC to pull together a memorandum summarizing what we knew of this activity and a map highlighting the roads in question.

I have found this memorandum useful and, in light of your current interest in Laos, thought that you also might like to see it. You will note that there are two maps attached to the memo: the smaller outlining the general area in question and the larger giving details on the particular suspect routes.

Rest assured that with our colleagues in  and in OCI we will keep a close watch on this Chicom activity and its implications, not only for Laos but also for such wider areas of concern as Thailand. A Chicom controlled road hooking up to the Mekong would indeed be a new element in a delicately balanced political equation.

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